

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00540 050700Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 H-01 COME-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 IO-13  
/070 W

-----052454 050710Z /17

R 300755Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0886  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0540

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETRD, EG  
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

REF: (A) CAIRO 10629, (B) STATE 142390, (C) ALEXANDRIA 0480

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS A AND B, DPO CALLED AFTERNOON OF 29 JUNE ON BRIGADIER MOHAMED AHMED AMIN ATTA OF THE ALEXANDRIA BOYCOTT OFFICE AND SPENT A LITTLE OVER HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSING THE ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND AT ATTA'S INITIATIVE, THE RECENT BOYCOTT CONFERENCE. BRIG. ATTA WAS VERY HOSPITABLE AND APPEARED TO APPRECIATE THE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL THRUST OF THE LEGISLATION AS WELL AS THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF EACH STATE TO REGULATE ITS OWN COMMERCE. ON THE OTHER HAND HE WAS POLITELY ATTENTIVE TO THE ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION WHICH PROHIBIT BOYCOTTING ACTIVITY BY U.S. FIRMS BUT APPEARED TO HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH THE CONCEPT OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION ONLY. HE LIKewise APPEARED TO BE QUITE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN CALLED ON CONCERNING IT AND EXPRESSED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE FULL TEXT OF THE LEGISLATION AS WELL AS DEPT OF COMMERCE'S PROCEDURES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

2. DURING THE CONVERSATION BRIG. ATTA WAS CALLED AWAY TO THE TELEPHONE FOUR OR FIVE TIMES, EACH TIME RETURNING TO COMMENT/ COMPLAIN ABOUT NUMEROUS CALLS TO HIM WITH INQUIRES ABOUT THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00540 050700Z

RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE. HE ALSO USED THE FIRST INTERRUPTION TO BRING UP HIS VERSION AS TO WHY THERE WAS ONLY LIMITED EGYPTIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE (REF C, PARA 5). ACCORDING TO HIM, HE ENGINEERED THE LACK OF COVERAGE AND DID SO TO MAKE CLEARLY THE POINT THAT WHILE THE CONFERENCE WAS PHYSICALLY HELD IN ALEXANDRIA, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT IT WAS NOT "SPONSORED" BY THE GOE. TO TRY TO CLARIFY WHAT HE MEANT HE WAS

ASKED IF HE WERE SUGGESTING THAT THE PRINCIPLE WAS THE SAME AS WITH THE U.N., THAT JUST BECAUSE IT PHYSICALLY MEETS IN N.Y., ONE CANNOT ASSUME THAT THE USG AGREES WITH ALL ITS DELIBERATIONS. HE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AND GAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS TRYING TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF, THE GOE AND THE RECENT CONFERENCE. IN AN EFFORT TO SMOKE OUT IF HE WERE PERHAPS JUST MIFFED THAT - AS RUMORED - SOMEONE ELSE HAD BEEN PLACED OVER HIM IN THE ALEXANDRIA BOYCOTT OFFICE, AS SOON AS DISCREETLY POSSIBLE IT WAS REITERATED THAT ATTA WAS CALLED ON AS THE "RESPONSIBLE." ATTA DID NOT PICK UP ON THIS.

3. ATTA ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN USEFUL IN RESOLVING FAVORABLY QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME FIRMS - HE MENTIONED GE, GM, BANK OF AMERICA AND A BELGIUM BANQUE DE CREDIT - THAT HAD NOT BEEN BOYCOTTED BUT WARNED.

4. CONCERNING BOYCOTTED FIRMS ATTA OFFERED THAT "THESE COMPANIES SHOULD HELP ME TO HELP THEM, I CANNOT WORK OUT OF A HOLE. THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY CLEVER, BUT PERHAPS THEY ARE AFRAID TO TALK TO ME." GIVEN THE TENOR OF HIS STATEMENT HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING ANYTHING MORE THAN A DIALOGUE WITH THESE FIRMS IN ORDER TO HELP THEM.

5. BRIGADIER ATTA ALSO MADE WHAT APPEARED TO BE A PITCH FOR A BETTER APPRECIATION OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL MOHAMED MAHGOUB, SAYING THAT HE IS BADLY MISUNDERSTOOD IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALEXAN 00540 050700Z

U.S. BUT IS A REASONABLE AND APPROACHABLE MAN.

6. UPON DPO'S DEPARTURE BRIG. ATTA REITERATED HIS INTEREST IN MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE LEGISLATION AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE.

7. THE LITTLE BIO-DATA DPO WAS ABLE TO PICK UP WAS THAT BEFORE COMING TO HIS PRESENT JOB ABOUT A YEAR AGO - HE HALF JOKINGLY SAID HE WAS VERY UNLUCKY TO GET IT - HE HAD BEEN AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS AND HAD FIRST FOUGHT THE ISRAELIS AT SUEZ IN 1956. HE PERSONALLY CONFIRMED THAT HIS RANK WAS BRIGADIER. HE APPEARED INTELLIGENT, WAS VERY PERSONALBE AND SAID HE LEARNED HIS FLUENT ENGLISH IN EGYPT.  
CHASE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009